

CLAIMS

1. A system for supply chain alternative scenario analysis comprising a computer system, said computer system  
5 further comprising:

a) a spreadsheet application having a macro programming capability;

b) a supply chain model builder;

c) a supply chain model; and,

10 d) at least one supply chain scenario.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein said model builder includes a design page that enables input of names of internal demand nodes, terminal demand node and parts  
15 sources.

3. The system of claim 2 wherein said design page further enables input of names of products, product forms and parts.  
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4. The system of claim 1 further including a symbolic interactive visual interface for constructing a scenario.

5. The system of claim 4 wherein said symbolic  
25 interactive visual interface includes interactive node icons and interactive connection elements.

6. The system of claim 5 wherein said interactive node icons include icons for parts sources, internal demand nodes and terminal demand nodes.

5 7. The system of claim 4 wherein said scenario includes more than one supply chain.

8. A method for performing alternative supply chain analysis comprising the steps of:

- 10 a) classifying and naming nodes in a supply chain;  
b) classifying and naming the objects flowing through the supply chain;  
c) building a supply chain model;  
d) inputting data to said model; and,  
15 e) designing at least one supply chain scenario.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein said nodes are classified as parts sources, internal demand nodes and terminal demand nodes.

20 10. The method of claim 8 wherein said objects flowing through the supply chain are classified as products, product forms and products.

25 11. The method of claim 9 wherein said supply chain scenario is designed using an interactive symbolic visual interface.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein said interactive symbolic visual interface comprises interactive node icons and interactive connection element icons.

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13. The method of claim 12 wherein said interactive node icons represent parts sources, internal demand nodes and terminal demand nodes.

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14. The method of claim 13 wherein the scenario properties are altered using a visual display pointing device in association with the icons.

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15. A computer readable medium containing executable instructions which, when executed in a processing system, causes the system to perform the steps for analyzing alternative supply chains, comprising:

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- a) classifying and naming nodes in a supply chain;
- b) classifying and naming the objects flowing through the supply chain;
- c) building a supply chain model;
- d) inputting data to said model; and,
- e) designing at least one supply chain scenario.

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16. The computer readable medium of claim 15 wherein the instructions for classifying and naming said nodes cause said nodes to be classified as parts sources, internal demand nodes and terminal demand nodes.

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17. The computer readable medium of claim 15 wherein the instructions for classifying and naming said objects cause said objects to be classified as parts, product forms and products.

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18. The computer readable medium of claim 15, further including instructions for the operation of an interactive symbolic visual interface.

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19. The computer readable medium of claim 18 wherein said interactive symbolic interface comprises interactive node icons and interactive connection element icons

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20. The computer readable medium of claim 19 wherein said interactive node icons represent parts sources, internal demand nodes and terminal demand nodes.